



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Ford City, PA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

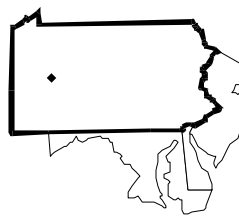
**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Ford City for a Brownfields Pilot. The City, located in Armstrong County in Southwestern Pennsylvania, built its heritage on glass manufacturing. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company (PPG Industries, Inc.) built a large tract for its operations along the Allegheny River Basin, and Ford City was established around this site. The decline of the glassworks industry began in the 1950s and ended with the closing of the plant and the razing of the buildings by 1994. The closing of the PPG facility had an adverse effect on the area's economy, with a 48% reduction in tax revenues due to the exodus of over half of the population. Poverty and unemployment rates are 15.7% and 9.52%, respectively.

The project area consists of 274 acres of vacant and underused industrial properties along the Allegheny River Basin. One target site is the abandoned PPG Industries tract, of which 47 acres are cordoned off and possibly contaminated with arsenic from glass-making processes. Another site, a former slurry area (containing glassworks residuals) and sand plant, is also in need of cleanup and redevelopment. The City believes that restoration of these properties will provide new job opportunities, thereby stimulating the economy and returning the area to its former level of prosperity.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Ford City, Pennsylvania*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The City plans to target several industrial properties along the Allegheny River Basin for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

### Contacts:

Ford City Borough  
Council  
(724) 763-3081

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 3  
(215) 566-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmdb/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Pilot project is to facilitate the reuse of former industrial properties within the Allegheny River Basin communities. Two non-profit organizations, Development Strategies and Concurrent Technologies Corporation, will team together with the City to conduct site assessments at the target sites. Additional activities will include evaluating environmental assessment information, combining cleanup design and redevelopment scenarios, investigating and identifying potential end users, and identifying additional funding sources for cleanup and redevelopment.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying, categorizing, and prioritizing potential brownfields sites for redevelopment;
- Conducting environmental site assessments and health-based risk assessments at the target sites to identify sources of contamination;
- Developing an integrated cleanup and redevelopment plan for the target sites;
- Identifying alternative funding opportunities from public and private sector sources; and
- Coordinating community outreach and public awareness activities through multimedia applications, public meetings, and informational mailings.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.